

(Washington, DC)- Milwaukee's 440th Airlift Wing was included on the list of recommended base closures that Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld sent to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission today.

"It is hard to understand why the Bush Administration would want to shut down the 440th, an award-winning unit that has served exceptionally in both humanitarian and defense missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Haiti and Somalia," Congresswoman Moore said. "I believe that the Bush Administration has made a regrettable mistake with this recommendation, and I will fight to keep the 440th Airlift Wing intact during the deliberations of the BRAC Commission in the coming months."

The 440th Airlift Wing is an Air Force Reserve unit located at Mitchell International Airport that operates eight C-130H aircraft, and serves airlift missions for tactical units, airborne units, personnel, supplies, and equipment. In addition to providing essential services to the military, the 440th Airlift Wing provides civilian jobs and contract work for hundreds residents of Wisconsin's Fourth Congressional District.

The BRAC Commission will review Secretary Rumsfeld's list of proposed closures over the summer, visit the bases that have been recommended for closure, and hold regional hearings around the country. The Commission will then submit their final list of recommended base closures to President Bush for review and approval by September 8, 2005. The President can either approve or disapprove the entire BRAC list. If approved, the list is submitted to Congress for a vote on the entire list within 45 days. If the President disapproves the BRAC recommendations, a revised list from the commission is due to the President by October 20, 2005.

Secretary Rumsfeld has also recommended that the 128th Refueling Group, an Air National Guard Unit also located at Mitchell International Airport, remain unaffected.

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